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FIRST POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS OF ENCEPHALITIS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 13 Jul 78 p 10

[Text] The first positive diagnosis of Australian arbovirus encephalitis, which is affecting people in the north, was made on July 5 by Professor Neville Stanley.

Professor Stanley is a world authority on viruses and head of the University of WA microbiology department.

The Minister for Health, Mr Ridge, said yesterday that the community was advised of the encephalitis outbreak as soon as he received Professor Stanley's advice of a positive diagnosis.

Mr Ridge was commenting on criticism by people in Kununurra.

They asked why they were not warned earlier of the encephalitis, which has stricken eight people in the north since February 3.

He said that the cases

were from widely scattered locations throughout the whole of the Kimberleys and that people had been admitted to different hospitals throughout the State.

It was an extremely difficult disease to diagnose. There had been no previously recorded cases in WA.

The Public Health authorities had become aware of two suspected cases by May 25.

A working party was set up with the Director-General of Public Health, Dr L. J. Holman, as chairman to monitor the situation and make recommendations.

"We began to look for other cases," Dr Holman said.

"The committee decided we should try to confirm the suspected cases, and Professor Stanley undertook to go back and get more blood for testing.

"This was time-consuming, and the laboratory procedures take a long time and are tedious and finicky to do."

The Federal Government yesterday made a grant of \$14,191 to WA to help fight the outbreak of encephalitis.

It will enable the University of WA to employ two research officers for six months and will cover other incidental expenses.

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

AMAZON YELLOW FEVER ZONE--Brasilia, 4 Aug--Brazilian Health Minister Paulo Almeida Machado has declared the Amazon region of northern Brazil a danger zone, and the country's central region on a state of alert, due to yellow fever. Machado issued the warning on television where he said that there is no treatment for this fever, and that if anyone goes into the Amazon region he must be inoculated first to give at least 2 years protection against that disease. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1437 GMT 4 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

CHOLERA OUTBREAK REPORTS FROM TOWNSHIPS

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 28 Jul 78 p 1

[Text]

KANBALU, 24 Jul (by telegram)
—An outbreak of cholera has been reported in Kanbalu and some villages in Kanbalu Township with three fatalities including a child.

Two persons including a child of Mezalibingon, Thangon and Zibinthar villages died of gastroenteritis while one died in Kanbalu today.

No 4 Sibintharyar bazaar has been closed down and preventive measures are being taken in the town and nearby villages.—(185)

Akyab

AKYAB, 18 Jul—The cases of cholera outbreak has not yet dropped in this township.

A total of 598 persons suffering from gastroenteritis were admitted to the People's Hospital here up to 16 July. Cholera germs were no longer found from those admitted to the hospital 7 July onwards.

Nineteen persons died of cholera and cholera germs were found from 52 persons up to 7 July. (WPD 15 July, 1978)

It was also reported that gastroenteritis is prevalent in Rathedaung, Ponnagyun and Pauktaw. As a result 28 persons suffering from gastroenteritis arrived at the Akyab hospital up to 16 July and of them one person died and cholera germs were found from three.

Anti-cholera measures are now being carried out as a mass movement in this township under the guidance of the Party Unit.

Party and Council functionaries, Lanzin Youths, Tatmadaw men and policemen and the working people are now carrying out environmental sanitation measures weekly.

Myittha

MYITTHA, 22 Jul—Seventeen persons have been admitted to the township hospital here for treatment for gastroenteritis since the beginning of this month.

Suspected cholera broke out in Shanbwe Ward here and Montawgyi, Nwarshar-yoe, Yankan and Kathagon villages.

To prevent the spread of the disease, the authorities have chlorinated 330 wells.—(238)

Thaton

THATON, 24 Jul—An outbreak of cholera in villages between Thaton and Bilin Townships has been reported with 19 fatalities.

The fatalities due to cholera reportedly occurred in Khalauk-in, Awingyi, Awingalay and Zaywin villages of Bilin Township and Mayangon, Chaungzaut and Yeway villages.

A party of officials comprising Thaton Township Party Unit Committee member U Ba Shin, Township People's Councillor U Saw Mya Than, Bilin Township Party Unit Committee member U Kyu Sein and Township People's Councillor U Kyu Sein, doctors from the two townships headed by Major Khin Maung Swe visited the various villages and took preventive measures against cholera from 6 to 10 July.—(272)

THREE RANGOON TOWNSHIPS BEGIN RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 27 Jul 78 pp 1, 4

[Text]

RANGOON, 26 Jul— A co-ordination meeting to discuss rat control measures in three townships of Rangoon Division was held at the Rangoon Division Health Department at 1 pm today.

The meeting was attended by epidemiologist Dr Daw Ohn Kyi, Dr U Hla Naing of Model Rodent Control Demonstration Unit and Medical Officer of Latha Township Dr Daw Aye Kyi, Medical Officer of Lanmadaw Township Dr Daw Thein Nu and Medical Officer of Pabedan Township Dr U Tin Maung Naing as well as members of the rat control units from the various townships.

Addressing the meeting Dr Daw Ohn Kyi pointed out that the rat control measure was being undertaken as a special programme in the three townships because they form a commercial centre with dense population and where foodstalls are plentiful. These are the places where the disease-carrying rats are rampant.

She stressed the need for simultaneous suppression of rats in these townships in order to prevent their migrating from township to township.

The measure is to be undertaken with five employees from the City Development Committee and two employees of the Township Health Department in each township. They will carry out the work under the guidance and supervision of Party and Council functionaries in each of the townships.

She pointed out further that special attention should be given to bazaars and market places, back lanes where remnants of foodstuffs are disposed of, storage godowns and parking lots for trucks.

Speaking next, Dr U Hla Naing mentioned three different methods of suppressing rats. **These, he said, are by means of traps, poison and fumigation.** Trapping, he said, will begin in Latha Township on 1 August, in Pabedan Township on 2 August and in Lanmadaw Township on 3 August. For this purpose, about 200 traps will be made available by the Model Rodent Control Demonstration Unit. This measure will be continued until rat population markedly decreases, he said.

Poison & fumigation

In adopting the poison method he said, zinc phosphate will be used in order not to endanger humans. Although zinc phosphate is deadly to rats, it does not affect man. Zinc phosphate would be made available by his Unit, he said.

The third method to eliminate rats, he said, is by fumigation. In this connection, he said, there are not sufficient equipment. However, fumigation by bellows and by motor exhaust fumes is equally effective.

In this connection, he added that supervision of Township Councillors would be necessary.

He urged medical officers from the three townships to draw up special rat suppression programmes and report on their requirements. In order to enable them to determine which disease is being carried by which type of rat, not less than five rats caught in the three townships should be sent to his Unit each week.

Addressing the meeting in his turn, Pabedan Township Medical Officer Dr U Tin Mauog Naing pointed out that Theingyi Bazaar "A" Block, the Central Open Air Bazaar and Bogyoke Aung San Market are the places where rats thrive most.

He said the rat population can be brought under control in

these areas only with the assistance of various department heads and of the Primary Workers Asiayones. It would be necessary he added, that stall keepers and employees should continuously be made to

realize the importance of environmental sanitation for the rat control measure to be effectively implemented.

Township Medical Officers of Lanmadaw and Latha townships then submitted their suggestions for educating foodstall holders and workers, for stepping up programmes for educating students on the need for school health and the working people on the need for sanitation in their residential areas.

The epidemiologist and head of the Model Rodent Control Demonstration Unit next explained the programme to be carried out in this connection.(290)

CSO: 5400

BURMA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA IN THATON--A committee was formed by Thaton township authorities to ban food which can cause gastroenteric disorders. The move was taken after 13 out of 50 patients admitted to Thaton hospital for gastroenteric disorders were found to carry cholera germs. Preventive measures are also underway as some deaths have been reported in rural areas. [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 25 Jul 78 p 6 BK]

CSO: 5400

HEALTH MINISTRY WARNS AGAINST MALARIA EPIDEMIC

Nicosia HALKIN SESI in Turkish 16 Jun 78 p 1

[Article by Erten Kasimoglu]

[Text] Recently, an epidemic of an illness accompanied by high fever that has struck, in particular, children below the age of 10 has raised a number of anxieties among our people.

According to information received from several pediatricians on this topic yesterday, the number of cases of the illness that is accompanied by a fever of up to 40 degrees is increasing rapidly. However, the doctors said that a definite diagnosis as to whether or not this is a contagious disease has not been able to be reached.

Worldwide Malaria Epidemic?

Meanwhile, it has been reported that a notice and the proposal of Minister of Labor, Social Work, and Health Mustafa Cagatay have been sent to every doctor and hospital, that necessary work has been accelerated in order to keep malaria outside the borders of the Turkish Cypriot Federated State and to prevent its spread within the region, and that blood testing has been begun.

The notice signed by Dr M. S. Ozkan, acting undersecretary of health services, reads as follows:

"An effort is being made throughout the entire world to eradicate malaria. However, because of mosquitoes' resistance to insecticides, there is the possibility that malaria will spread again. In order to keep malaria outside our borders and to prevent its spread within our region, necessary work has been accelerated and blood testing has been started.

"I respectfully request all doctors practicing in the Turkish Cypriot Federated State to exhibit the necessary interest in the subject, to have blood of patients with high fevers analyzed at medical laboratories, to inform the health directorate of malaria cases immediately, and to admit malaria patients to state hospitals for treatment."

Forty-Seven Malaria Cases

In the meantime, we had a discussion yesterday with Minister of Labor, Social Work, and Health Cagatay on this topic. He stated that there are 47 malaria cases -- which have been determined to be old cases -- in the Magosa region, but that a reoccurrence is being prevented through extremely tight control. Cagatay asserted that the 47 citizens in the Magosa region are under the constant supervision of health services officials and that they are ensured all the necessary drugs for treatment. He pointed out that the ministry is speeding up its campaign to combat mosquitoes during the summer months in particular and is making an effort to continue its spraying activities in an effective manner.

We had a second discussion with Minister of Labor, Social Work, and Health Cagatay yesterday afternoon. He reported that, at a ministry meeting attended by other officials as well, it was noted that an illness accompanied by high fever has hit children recently, but that, at the present stage, this illness does not have the characteristics of a contagious disease.

Dr Ozkan, acting undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, reported that the weather has been extremely hot in recent days, that children's bodies are unable to tolerate the heat, and that, as a result of water loss, their body temperatures have risen. However, he stated that, in addition to this, some doctors are considering the possibility of a virus.

Ministry of Health officials, who assert that there is absolutely no relationship at this stage between the high fevers being seen among children and malaria, have asked the public to take the necessary care to clean up their neighborhoods during the summer months in particular and to aid the ministry's work in order to prevent every type of epidemic.

11673

CSO: 5400

CYPRUS

PAPER CALLS FOR CONTINUED EFFORT TO COMBAT MOSQUITOES

Nicosia HALKIN SESI in Turkish 17 Jun 78 p 1

[Text] The battle against mosquitoes being waged in the Turkish Cypriot Federated State within the framework of a specific program and plan continues. Spraying activities in the Trakhonas and Marmara regions of Nicosia, in particular, have been accelerated. While supporting these measures being taken by related officials due to the noticeable increase in mosquitoes, houseflies, and crickets recently and to the outbreak of several contagious diseases, we urge that they be continued at the same tempo. In the meantime, we believe that there is a need for our people to help in every way possible the municipal government and the health teams. The assistance of the public will render the battle against mosquitoes more effective. We feel that the most important duties that rest on the public in this respect are to act in a more sanitary and sensitive manner and to inform authorities of water accumulations in order to prevent mosquito-breeding spots.

11673

CSO: 5400

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

TYPHOID OUTBREAK--San Salvador, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Public Health Ministry today, Tuesday, placed all government health centers under a state of emergency in view of the increase in cases of typhoid fever. Fifteen days ago the ministry announced that there were more than 200 typhoid cases and placed on alert the hospitals, health centers and units under its jurisdiction. The number has now tripled and consequently it has become an emergency. Spokesmen of the Public Health Ministry told ACAN-EFE today, Tuesday, that they have the necessary medicines and that ministry officials are on the alert despite the 8-day holiday which is in effect here due to San Salvador's patron saint festivities. [Text] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 1 Aug 78 PA]

CSO: 5400

ETHIOPIA

SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN GROUPS CONTINUE LEPROSY FIGHT DESPITE UNREST

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 7 Jul 78 p 3 (Evening Ed)

/Article by Ellen Bertling: "More Than 15 Million Suffer from Leprosy"7

/Text/ "More than 15 million people in the world today are suffering from leprosy. In Ethiopia we have 150,000 leprosy patients and we get approximately 15,000 new cases annually. Leprosy is an infectious disease which is especially widespread in underdeveloped countries where hygiene is poor. We expect that the disease will disappear when the social conditions are improved," says the director of Armauer Hansen's Research Institute in Addis Ababa, Bernt Johansen.

Johansen is in Oslo in connection with an international conference on leprosy research which took place this weekend. Fifty delegates from 14 nations participated in the conference, which was arranged by Save the Children. The situation in Ethiopia was one of the subjects which were discussed in the conference. One wants to expand the leprosy work, and it was decided to increase the staff at the research institute by one physician.

Armauer Hansen's Research Institute is operated jointly by Save the Children in Norway and Save the Children in Sweden. Most of the international leprosy research is concentrated here. The institute collaborates with a training center for leprosy personnel for all of Africa, and the result is referred to as very successful. Work is done to develop an effective vaccine against the disease, but not much progress has been made so far.

Save the Children is a member of the International Leprosy Organization, ILEP, and 1.2 million of an annual budget of 25 million kroner goes to the leprosy work.

"We get good support from the government in Ethiopia, and we have been able to continue the work unhindered by the war. We look relatively optimistically at the future. Right now we are planning a project at Tana Lake. We will build three new health stations with exclusively Ethiopian health

personnel, which will be directed by the national authorities. Save the Children takes care of financing and follow-up with support from NORAD," says Johansen.

Leprosy is a disease which often has bigger social than medical consequences. Many will try to conceal the disease as long as possible for fear of being expelled from the society they live in.

"We must therefore conduct an active tracking-down activity to find the patient as early as possible. Treatment with medicines over several years may be necessary, and it is important that the medicines be taken regularly. It is important to follow up on patients, something we can do best by building health stations around the country."

Johansen is undecided nowadays. ALERT (All African Rehabilitation and Training Center), which the research center is cooperating with, will soon need a new director. Johansen has been offered the position, but has not yet given any definite reply.

8958

CSO: 5400

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

DENGUE FEVER EPIDEMIC--The Honduran Public Health Ministry has confirmed that there is an epidemic of dengue fever in the country which is particularly affecting the areas of Islas de la Bahia and San Pedro Sula on the north coast. It was noted that the virus is relatively benign and is similar to the flu. [San Pedro Sula EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Aug 78 p 2 PA]

DENGUE FEVER CONTROL--International organizations are giving full cooperation to the public health and social assistance office in its efforts to control dengue fever, an epidemic which is affecting San Pedro Sula and threatens to spread to other parts of the country. The organizations assisting are the Pan-American Health Office of the World Health Organization, which has sent its epidemiology chief for Central America, Dr Carlos Ochoa, who is a specialist working with public health officials to control the disease. [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1720 GMT 11 Aug 78 PA]

ANTIDENGUE FEVER CAMPAIGN--San Pedro Sula, Honduras 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The health authorities will soon begin an aerial fumigation campaign to eradicate the "aedes aegypti" mosquito, the main carrier of dengue fever, it was learned here today. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1602 GMT 14 Aug 78 PA]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CHOLERA IN TANGERANG, PARUNG--Jakarta, 27 Jul, (AFP)--An outbreak of cholera epidemic in Tangerang district, some 30 kilometers west of here, has killed 26 people and was reported to be spreading southward to an area already infected by the disease. The ANTARA NEWS AGENCY said more than 200 people in 16 subdistricts have been hospitalized and emergency health teams were sent to vaccinate the people. In the Parung district, about 30 kilometers south of Jakarta, 14 people died of cholera by last week and close to 150 people were hospitalized. The Parung outbreak was believed to have been caused by pollution of the river by a man who was suffering from cholera. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0452 GMT 27 Jul 78 BK]

CSO: 5400

IRAQ

BRIEFS

TWO CHOLERA CASES REPORTED--Baghdad, 1 Aug--The health authorities have discovered two cholera cases in the Dhi Qar Province, southern Iraq. Announcing this today, Health Minister Riyadh Ibrahim said that the two persons who contracted the disease are in very good condition. The minister added that WHO has been informed. [Excerpt] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Aug 78 JN]

CSO: 5400

LAOS

BRIEFS

VIENTIANE MALARIA CONTROL EFFORTS--In late April 1978 the Vientiane City and Province Public Health Office sent 18 medical cadre supplied with a quantity of medicines out to work with canton and district health cadre and village health combatants in checking for malaria which could occur during the annual rice growing season. Two medical cadre moved into each of nine districts around Vientiane city and province: Meuang [district] Kasi, Meuang Sanakham, Meuang Saithani, Meuang Vang Viang, Meuang Paksan, Meuang Phon Hong, Meuang Thoulakhon, and Meuang Hom. Upon their arrival they took blood samples from the people to check for malaria. An immediate examination showed that an average of 30 percent of the people had malaria. They then drew up urgent plans for suppressing malaria among the people in these areas. The first step was to spread DDT to suppress malaria-carrying mosquitoes. After this they distributed anti-malaria drugs to the people. [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 11 May 78 pp 1, 4]

CSO: 5400

NETHERLANDS

POLIO EPIDEMIC SPREADS, CAUSES CONCERN

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 30 Jun 78 p 32

/Article by Hermann Bleich: "Netherlands Polio Epidemic Spreads"/

/Text/ The Hague, Netherlands, 29 June.--The infantile paralysis epidemic--which has been causing alarm in the Netherlands for weeks--continues to spread. Already more than 60 persons have been affected, among them a 28-year-old teacher at a school in Barneveld. In his class are four children from one family which previously had a child stricken by polio. All patients profess to a faith which refuses immunization against infantile paralysis for religious reasons.

The present cases exceed the numbers of the last epidemic which broke out in Staphorst in 1971, but heretofore the consequences had been less serious. Of the total 37 patients in 1971, five died whereas many others were made invalids for life. In the present polio epidemic only a few cases can be considered very serious to date.

Nevertheless, uneasiness is growing throughout the country. Members of Parliament requested the government to contact representatives of churches refusing the immunization on grounds of their conviction that there should be no interference with the will of God. The parliamentarians hope that in agreement with the churches, new ways can be found to increase the degree of immunization. The government was also petitioned for information about what measures were being taken to prevent continued spread of the epidemic. There is no compulsory immunization program in the Netherlands.

The Ministry of Health in the Hague is of the opinion that closing schools would not reduce the danger of contracting the disease. It is more probable that children would present a greater danger to their environment with increased amounts of free time. Dutch health officials do not see any reason to change the immunization program or the selection of the serum used. It is known that the polio epidemics remain limited to those population groups who generally resist immunization for religious reasons.

A more flexible attitude is gradually being taken in these church circles with regard to the possibility of immunization. The argument is heard that this serum could even be considered to be a blessing of God. The deeply rooted resistance in orthodox protestant circles cannot be eliminated soon, however.

9280

CSO: 5400

VENEREAL DISEASE RISE REPORTED

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 7 Jul 78 (Evening Ed) p 3

/Text/ Those who read the statistics blindly may get the impression that the spread of venereal diseases in Norway has stopped. While the number of reported cases of gonorrhea shows an increase from less than 4000 cases reported in 1966 to 14,170 in 1975, the figures for 1976 and 1977 were 14,156 and 13,203, respectively. The frequency of syphilis has doubled during the last 5-year period, but it still constitutes a modest number as compared to gonorrhea.

"But this impression of stagnation is completely erroneous," the medical director at Oslo Health Council, Department of Dermatology and Venereal Diseases, Thor Gundersen, tells AFTENPOSTEN.

"Very many of the cases we record as 'nonspecific urethritis' are no doubt sexually transmitted diseases, but we don't know what microorganisms they are caused by. This 'nonspecific' group of diseases has shown a dramatic increase from the 1950's. But the group will also include cases which are not of a venereal nature. It is therefore not possible to present any statistical material which shows the actual spread of sexually transmitted diseases," says Medical Director Gundersen.

"But we have now made a good step further when we recently started using methods for cultivating the microorganism Chlamydia, which we then were able to identify. It causes a disease with symptoms which are similar to and can easily be confused with gonorrhea. We have been aware of Chlamydia for many years, but the methods for detecting it are relatively expensive and elaborate, so that we have postponed using them here in this country as long as possible. In these cases we were previously only able to establish that we had a sexually transmitted disease similar to gonorrhea, although it was not gonorrhea. Chlamydia has presumably been the most frequent of the cases which so far have been recorded as "nonspecific urethritis." In Oslo just as many cases are now being detected of chlamydia as of gonorrhea, and while gonorrhea has stagnated, all indications are that chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease which is steadily spreading.

Loaded

"You always use the designation 'sexually transmitted diseases?'"

"We are trying to use this as the future designation instead of 'sexual diseases' or 'venereal diseases.' Both of these designations are loaded in the sense that they are associated with fright and unpleasantness about the dramatic consequences. The sexually transmitted diseases are obviously just as 'dangerous' as they have always been if one does not seek and get medical attention. But the methods today are so effective that there is little or no danger for those who get treatment. Syphilis, which previously could take years to conquer, is now conquered in a couple of weeks. Gonorrhea, which previously involved treatment for several months, can now be broken in one day."

Prosperity

"The phenomenon of the increase in the frequency of sexually transmitted diseases in periods of prosperity has been reflected at all times all over the world," continued Gundersen. "Here in Oslo we have statistics for the last 100 years, which clearly show how the spread bloomed during the boom time, and it almost disappeared in the 1930's. In today's prosperous society the younger and unmarried, who constitute the most frequently affected group, have money and free time for running around, whether it involves 'going to town' or setting out on vacation trips. The health statistics also show that the frequency of the sexually transmitted diseases is generally highest where there is most traffic, in centers, communication points, and tourist locations."

"Is it not true that the new contraceptive methods have been considered to be one of the reasons for the increase?"

"This is no doubt correct. The condom protects against the sexually transmitted diseases, while the pill, the diaphragm, and the IUD do not."

Information

"Can the spread be limited by guidance and information?"

"In this connection, the effect of sexual information can probably go both ways. On the one hand, the young are learning how they can and should protect against both unwanted pregnancy and against diseases. On the other hand, this knowledge may involve a challenge to have a go, at the same time as one may possibly not take the consequences of the acquired knowledge," says Medical Director Thor Gundersen.

8958

CSO: 5400

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

MENINGITIS AT MILITARY HOSPITAL--Defence headquarters in Pretoria yesterday confirmed two cases of meningitis in No 1 Military Hospital at Voortrekkerhoogte. Both patients are making satisfactory progress. The Surgeon-General, Major General N. J. Nieuwoudt, said meningitis was a seasonal occurrence at this time of the year. "As in previous years the situation is naturally being watched very carefully and measures are always taken to prevent this seasonal disease from spreading," General Nieuwoudt said. SAPA. [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 2 Aug 78 p 5]

CSO: 5400

SPAIN

CASE OF HUMAN MENINGITIS DISCOVERED

Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 15 Jun 78 p 22

[Text] Yesterday EL PAIS learned of a new case of meningitis in a 12-year-old girl; the report was spread by some residents of the Morataluz neighborhood. The sick child, a pupil at the Siglo XXI school, had to be hospitalized in the Hospital del Rey after she was examined by the school medical staff, after complaining of a sore throat and headache, and was found to have meningitis. Later the directors were advised by the doctors to say nothing about this case, advice that was repeated at the Hospital del Rey. Nonetheless, the school personnel did inform parents that, because of the appearance of this case, the school would close 3 days early for the vacation.

During this time, both the office employees and the teachers will be at the school, according to a report released by the staff, to keep the parents informed of the progress of this case, which is considered one of the most dangerous diseases, although not very contagious.

The provincial head of the health department said that "there are always cases of meningitis. I already knew about this one, since the health department gets reports from the hospitals on infectious diseases. The fact that there is, on the part of both the hospital and the doctors, this desire to conceal the existence of this case, is due to the fact that they prefer not to create a state of alarm."

7679

CSO: 5400

TURKEY

INTESTINAL INFECTION REAPPEARS IN SIIRT, CLAIMS 23

Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 5 Jul 78 p 3

/Text/ Siirt--Within the last 10 days 23 children died from an illness which broke out in the villages of Alkemer and Inceler in the district of Sirnak and which authorities say is an "intestinal infection."

Upon the village head of Alkemer, Cetin Yilmaz's coming to Sirnak and reporting the situation to the district governor, health teams were dispatched. Twenty children between the ages of 4 and 7 in Alkemer and three children in Inceler were reported to have died from an illness whose symptoms are fever, diarrhea, and vomiting. It was learned that some 20 children were bedridden with the same illness in Alkemer and Inceler as well as in the surrounding fields.

Siirt Governor Husnu Ozkipper disclosed that he reported the situation by telephone to Health Ministry Deputy Adviser Dr. Ertugrul Eker and that the matter was assumed by the ministry.

Governor Ozkipper reported that two health teams were immediately dispatched to the villages in which the epidemic broke out and that a health team of one doctor, three nurses, and two health officers was sent from Siirt for reinforcement. He said, "We are using every means at our disposal to bring this epidemic under control quickly."

Siirt Health Officer Dr. Cemalettin Hekimoglu reported that operations are being severely hampered because the roads in the villages in which the epidemic broke out are in very poor condition.

He said, "We are unable to say anything definite about the nature of the illness because our teams have not returned from the villages. However, if the symptoms are examined, the illness is an acute intestinal infection. The health teams are doing everything in their power to try to bring the epidemic under control as soon as possible."

9172

CSO: 4807

TURKEY

BRIEFS

CHOLERA CASES IN DIYARBAKIR--Diyarbakir--CUMHURIYET--Diyarbakir Mayor Mehdi Zana has said that more than 100 cholera cases have been reported in Diyarbakir so far and that three persons have died of cholera in Silvan. Speaking at a press conference, Mehdi Zana said that cholera has reached dangerous dimensions in Diyarbakir and, despite his early warnings about the danger of cholera, authorities have not taken any preventive measures against it. Mayor Zana claimed that three gendarmes have died of cholera in Silvan. [Excerpt] [Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 25 Jul 78 pp 1, 7 NC]

CSO: 5400

EXPANDED IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM TO BE LAUNCHED

Kampala VOICE OF UGANDA in English 2 Aug 78 p 4

[Editorial in the column "VOICE Periscope"]

[Text] The launching of the expanded programme on immunization in Uganda marks the start of an aggressive drive against disease which implies a radical shift in emphasis from waging a defensive war on disease.

Karamoja Province, of course, provided the most logical launching pad having, as it does, considerably fewer medical facilities than the rest of the country. The effort to start with the area of greatest need is thus, in every sense, a logical one.

And the coming of the expanded programme is all the more commendable for its pragmatic approach to the health problems faced by our nation once one realises, as Dr Muzira revealed, that infectious diseases, which could be checked through immunization, are the major causes of mortality in Uganda.

This fact demanded that a more dynamic role be assigned to immunization in our national health programmes to make up for the "tragic" gap that had precipitated from the minimal importance given to vaccination--the most effective techniques in preventive medicine.

Coming simultaneously with the announcement of the lifting of the ban on private practices by government doctors, the government's expanded immunization programme, ought to be instrumental in bringing about the effective eradication of disease in the country.

The helping hands put out to assist Uganda towards the successful execution of this immunization programme by friendly countries, and the specialised UN agencies--the UNICEF and the WHO--are obviously very much welcome, especially as this is a long-term project designed to reach the long-neglected rural population.

The question to which the medical service in Uganda must now address itself to is whether the expanded programme on immunization, timely and desirable as it is today, will prove to be a sufficient shot in the arm to up-lift the health standard of the people.

This calls for a sweeping reexamination of the entire structure upon which the crucial medical services and the curative practices are found.

There is need for the proper education of the masses in health care.

CSO: 4420

WHO TO INVESTIGATE STUDENTS' ILLNESS

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 27 Jul 78 p 2

[Excerpt]

THE fate of Ndola's Chiwala Secondary School — already plagued by a mysterious illness — will be known this week-end following the decision by the World Health Organisation to investigate cause of the disease, Copperbelt chief education officer, Mr

Killion Banda, said yesterday.

And with immediate effect all classes at the school have been suspended pending the outcome of the probe whose results are expected to be out on Saturday.

Mr Banda said WHO experts had volunteered to investigate the disease after medical authorities at Ndola Central Hospital failed to establish its cause.

Students said the disease first started with backache, headache and in some cases

vomiting.

So far more than 70 students have been admitted to the hospital and several others been treated since the disease struck the school about a fortnight ago.

Mr Banda said depending on the advice from WHO who collect blood samples from all students at the institution classes might either be suspended temporarily or resumed.

He said: "Although the situation had changed slightly compared to last week when about 70 students were admitted at one go we cannot go ahead and close the school until medical authorities advise us if the situation warranted closure or temporary suspension of classes."

Since Monday students have been boycotting classes demanding that they be allowed to go home and try traditional medicines as the hospital had failed to cure them.

While Mr Banda who was accompanied by Copperbelt provincial medical officer, Dr Vijayak Gani was having discussions with the school staff on Tuesday, two students collapsed and had to be rushed to hospital in Mr Banda's car.

ZAMBIA

MYSTERY DISEASE IDENTIFIED AS MALARIA

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 3 August 78 p 5

[Text] The Chiwala Secondary School students admitted in Ndola Central Hospital with what has been described as "a mass hysteria" were actually suffering from malaria, acting director of medical services, Dr Sichilindi Siwale, said in Lusaka yesterday.

Dr Siwale said he had just received the report on the investigation carried out by the ministry, using laboratory facilities of the World Health Organisation (WHO) research centre in Ndola which positively found the students had been attacked by malaria.

He said the students had complained of headache on arrival at the hospital, had similar temperature, and on examination they were found to be suffering from malaria.

Dr Siwale said he did not agree with Ndola medical authorities who suspected "mass hysteria," because this was a psychological reaction.

CSO: 5400

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

IMMUNIZATION CUTS MEASLES CASES--Measles will be a thing of the past in Kitwe district following an intensive immunisation campaign by the city council, the district medical health officer, Dr Kawaye Kamanga said in Kitwe yesterday. The disease which has been a problem for a long time in the city, has for the past two years shown an overall marginal decline. In 1975, 6,577 cases of measles were reported in the district, as compared to 6,187 in 1976 4,170 cases recorded in 1977. [Text] [Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 27 Jul 78 p 3]

CSO: 5400

SEBONI OPENS CHOBE SHOW, URGES STRINGENT TICK CONTROL

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 18 Jul 78 p 3

[Text]

The Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning W.M. Seboni disclosed over the weekend that the Ministry of Agriculture intends to open a Livestock Advisory Centre in Kasane, with a fulltime veterinary assistant in charge.

Mr Seboni said this in Kasane when officially opening the first Agricultural Show in the Chobe District. He told the show attendants that he knows that they have a special problem in this district with the cattle skin disease "Senkobo".

"The only effective answer to this is stringent tick control, and the Ministry of Agriculture has started a cattle spraying scheme in the areas worst affected", he said. Unfortunately, this has had to be temporarily discontinued during the foot and mouth outbreak, because the first national priority was to fight foot and mouth.

He, however, said that the spraying campaign will be resumed as soon as possible, but again "I would appeal to self-reliance. We appeal to farmers to form themselves into groups to deal with such problems."

The Minister further explained that there are several ways in which we can help such groups; for instance, if you form an Agricultural Management Association, Government can give financial assistance for the association to purchase a spray race or to construct a dip."

He also encouraged farmers in the Chobe District to apply for bulls under the bull subsidy scheme so as to upgrade their stock. "We do not receive as many applications as we would like from this district, any anyone who applies has a very good chance of being allocated a bull," Mr Seboni added.

Earlier, Mr Seboni has told his audience that the show was very encouraging and may be looked back on as a landmark in the development of this district.

"We should be conscious of the fact that a show like this is part of the development effort, as well as a good day's entertainment for everyone. We come here to learn from each other's achievements, and to find out more about agriculture and the development of the region and the country as a whole."

A show is also a symbol of another aspect of development, that is our ability to work together for a common goal. He told his audience that government was fully aware of the special problems of their district. "You have been more

seriously affected than most other district by the political problems in neighbouring countries", he added. As a result, Mr Seboni said established trade patterns have been disrupted, and the tourist industry has been seriously affected.

The last six months have been particularly difficult, because of floods, foot and mouth, and the hunting ban imposed in consequence to foot and mouth. Fortunately these problems have now diminished.

He added that the foot and mouth epidemic is at an end in the district, and the hunting ban has been lifted. "However, I am afraid that it will still be many months possibly as long as a year before the countries that import our beef will permit us to market livestock from this district to the Botswana Meat Commission".

The Minister, however, said that in the long run it was clear

that this was a district with a great future "water is abundant, Agricultural land is good, there is no overgrazing, and you have valuable natural resources of wildlife and timber".

He added: "If we all work together, the future is bright, and your district plan rightly lays emphasis on three main areas: livestock, crops, and development of natural resources".

BOTSWANA

EEC GRANTS 1.6 MILLION FOR FOOT AND MOUTH LAB

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 20 Jul 78 p 1

[Article by Mishingo Mpaphadzi]

[Text]

The European Economic Commission has granted two million Dollars to Botswana towards the construction and eventual running of the Foot-and-Mouth disease Laboratory at Gaborone's Broadhurst Industrial Estate.

The Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed that work on the construction of the laboratory started last week with the erection of a pit for the de-contamination tanks and a double security fence running round the perimeter of the site. Phase one of the complex comprises a module and a prefabricated building within which a sealed virus-proof unit will be housed.

The project is a joint effort between the Botswana Government and Iffa-Merieux, a French firm specialising in vaccine production. The building of a foot and Mouth Laboratory in Botswana, according to

Dr Martin Mannathoko, was decided on after the imported vaccine failed to control certain types of Foot-and-Mouth following the disease outbreak last year.

Dr Mannathoko said in an interview that the building would hopefully be completed

at the end of August. He said serological studies would begin in September and that the vaccine was expected to be in use early next year.

Asked about precautionary measures to be adopted at the laboratory, Dr Mannathoko disclosed that all effluent would go through the de-contamination tanks for disinfection to eliminate the risk of the spread of the virus. He said only after proper disinfection would the effluent enter the sewerage system.

CSO: 5400

DURING EMERGENCY 5,500 HEAD QUARANTINED

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 18 Jul 78 p 2

[Text] During the foot and mouth emergency 5,500 head of cattle were held at the Makoba Quarantine Camp, of these 745 were artificial insemination cattle of which 345 were farmers' cattle that could not be released because of the disease.

This was the disclosure made to Parliament last week by the Minister of Agriculture Lenyeletse Seretse in answer to G.S. Mosinyi, MP for Shoshong.

Minister Seretse told the House that there were 139 cattle reported to have died up to date of which 17 were killed by predators. Of the remainder, 77 animals belonged to one owner and all these died of heartwater.

Furthermore, the House heard that animals from this particular herd were dying from heartwater before they entered Makoba. To try to assist stock owners, the Minister pointed out, the Department of Animal Health made free [word indistinct] and dipping facilities available for tick control.

There were 2 500 sheep held in the quarantine during the outbreak and there is no record of animals straying from there, Minister Seretse disclosed.

He, however, noted that the 389 deaths reported, of which the majority were due to heartwater and internal parasites and 17 animals, were killed by predators.

Minister Seretse also noted that all livestock held in any of the quarantine camps are herded and attended by their owners or their representatives and there is no compensation paid for losses occurring during custody at the quarantines.

He noted that with the number of animals previously stated, the grazing in Makoba Quarantine camp has seen seriously depleted. All animals were released on July 14 since it has been reported safe to do so and the situation has improved.

BRAZIL

MINISTER REJECTS LENIENCY IN SWINE FEVER CAMPAIGN

Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Speaking to the National Economic Council [CNE] yesterday, Agricultural Minister Alysson Paulinelli said that he will recommend that the state commissions for eradication of African swine fever act more promptly and more firmly in adopting measures for eradicating that disease. He added that if the government takes no measures just to ingratiate itself with the people, the country will have to pay a higher price for this leniency in the future.

Paulinelli stated that the order is to seize, even with the assistance of public force, all animals contaminated with this disease. During his talk to the CNE the agriculture minister said that the official position must be not to allow the existence of African swine fever in the country.

The Agriculture Ministry will launch a nationwide information campaign to induce the population to eat more pork. Since the appearance of African swine fever in the country the consumption of pork has dropped by as much as 90 percent in some regions--namely, in Rio Grande do Sul. The campaign to be initiated early in August will consist of radio, television and newspaper announcements and outdoor posters. The launching of this campaign was announced yesterday during a lunch given by the federal agriculture delegate, the Rio Grande do Sul Agriculture Secretariat and the Brazilian Hog Raisers Association. It had been publicized as a "lunch to promote pork."

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER CONTINUES TO SPREAD

Health Inspection Findings

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 14 Jul 78 p 7

/Text/ The National Secretariat for Agricultural-Livestock Protection yesterday revealed all the reports on health inspections made in 1975 and 1976 on the ships which brought Angolan immigrants to Brazil. Those documents state that all animals, including a penguin, were killed, while all food was burned. The press handout was made by the coordinator of the "Social Communications Operation" of the Company for the Eradication of Hog Cholera, Antonio Secundino Neto, with the observation that no more extensive comments would be provided.

Some health experts of the Ministry of Agriculture explained that actually the objective was to show that the Angolans did not land in Brazil without any health inspection. It was also announced yesterday that three more outbreaks of African Swine Fever had been confirmed officially in the state of Sao Paulo by the laboratory of virology of the Rio de Janeiro Federal University. The three outbreaks are located at the municipalities of Fatura, Pinhalzinho and Candido Mota.

The ships Samaritana, Dea II, Vega Lenita, Senhora das Gracas, Rita Maria and Lubango docked in Rio de Janeiro. One pig, one penguin, 14 dogs and four chickens were found on those ships and killed.

The ships Nossa Senhora do Mont Serrat, Nossa Senhora da Luz, Alcatraz and Heroi docked in Bahia. Five dogs, one cat and one goat were found on them, and killed.

The ships Atlantico, Pioneiro, Dona Patricia and Dona Norma were inspected in Itajai in Santa Catarina. The health inspectors found three dogs and 10 pigeons, all of which were killed and incinerated.

Goias Fears New Outbreak

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Jul 78 p 8

/Text/ Goiania (O GLOBO)--The greatest concern of the Goiana authorities at this time, in view of the appearance of cases of African Swine Fever in the state, is that the disease could spread because many of the animals raised in places where there were outbreaks of the disease had already been sent to other parts of Goias through sale and resale operations.

After the discovery of two infected areas in Itumbiara; one in Hidrolandia and a fourth in Neropolis, it can be confirmed that there is another in Bela Vista de Goias, where in the past 10 days more than 40 hogs died. When the first cases were discovered, material for examination was sent to the Secretariat of Agriculture in Goiania. A team of veterinarians was then sent to that municipality to make an analysis of the cases, while laboratory work was being done.

The president of the Bela Vista de Goias Rural Union, Jose Amorim Figueiredo, says that all the hogs there were acquired in Anapolis and that the transportation of the hogs, although it is prohibited, is done without any inspection. When the deaths began, some raisers in panic threw the remains of the animals into the streams which cross their properties, attracting buzzards. It is another factor for concern.

Botulism

In addition to suspecting African Swine Fever outbreaks, the Bela Vista de Goias hog raisers suspect still another outbreak: that of botulism among beef cattle. More than 100 have died already and it cannot yet be told--not even by the Sao Paulo Biological Institute, which has not yet managed to isolate the virus which caused the deaths--what the disease is that killed them.

Jose Amorim Figueiredo also said that there is difficulty in finding vaccines against botulism in the region. He explained that the animals die suddenly in convulsions and that experts of the Secretariat of Agriculture and from the Agronomy and Veterinary School have not been able to diagnose the disease.

In Para

Belem (O GLOBO)--The president of the African Swine Fever Regional Commission of the state directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture in Para, Waldomiro Gaia Torres, declared yesterday that 99 percent of the swine herds in Para have been hit by the disease or threatened by it. Although the total number of the swine herd in the state cannot be estimated "because their raising is superscattered," that is, they are raised in the open, Gaia Torres believes that out of each 40 animals, 38 of them are sick. The slaughter of sick pigs has not yet begun because there are difficulties in the payment for indemnification, the census of raisers and the approval of the process by the delegate of the Ministry of Agriculture. The intent is to pay from 915 to 19 cruzeiros per kilo of live weight for each hog killed. In the Isle of Marajo, more than 10,000 hogs infected by the disease have already died.

In Mato Grosso

Campo Grande (O GLOBO)--Veterinarian Jorge Veneza of the African Swine Fever Eradication Commission of the Ministry of Agriculture reported yesterday that the only outbreak of the disease discovered in Mato Grosso--in the municipality of Brasilandia--is already under control. Seventeen animals which were infected or suspected of being infected, were slaughtered. The remains were cremated and buried.

It was confirmed that other cases of deaths of hogs, which were suspected of being diseased, were due to worm infestations, very heavy in almost all the swine herds of Mato Gross--nearly 2.5 million head. Laboratory examinations proved this. Other deaths were caused by pneumonia, which is common in times of heavy rains.

The Brasilandia outbreak, was located at the "Upa-upa" Ranch, which was isolated and remains under the surveillance of veterinarians of the Ministry of Agriculture, who also extend their actions to five neighboring properties, carrying out disinfection every 3 days.

In Aguas Claras, Aparecida do Taboado, Anaurilandia and Bataguacu, where there were other deaths of hogs, the cause was foot-and-mouth disease.

Heavy Losses in Parana

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Jul 78 p 8

/Text/ Curitiba (O GLOBO)--The state of Parana lost nearly 80 million cruzeiros since the incidence of African Swine Fever was confirmed in the Sao Paulo municipality of Ourinhos near the Parana border nearly 2 months ago.

For 40 days the state border crossings were closed to traffic in live animals and hog byproducts, which caused the majority of the losses--nearly 45 million cruzeiros--because Parana does not have enough slaughter houses to handle production.

Damage to the swine herds was less. According to a survey by the state directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, only 260 hogs died in Parana as a result of African Swine Fever, while another 1,607 were killed on the 12 properties considered centers of infection. The swine herds of Parana are estimated at 4.8 million head.

Other Losses

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Jul 78 p 16

/Excerpts/ Santo Antonio da Platina--The states of Parana and Santa Catarina, the largest raisers of hogs in the country, with herds estimated at 10 million

head, are losing 13,770,000 cruzeiros per day in the food being consumed by hogs ready for slaughter but for which there is no market, said Parana raiser Antonio Luis Prado Simoes.

In Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, State Deputy Antonio Pichetti (National Renewal Alliance--ARENA) revealed the "unusual" presence of U.S. technicians in the Institute of Virology in the Rio de Janeiro Federal Institute--where examinations of hogs infected by African Swine Fever are made--which he considered "highly questionable and compromising for Brazilian interests."

Complaint to the President

Antonio Luis Prado Simoes delivered a memorandum to Parana Governor Jayme Canet Junio, who worked yesterday in Santo Antonio da Platina, in which he complains to President Geisel, in the name of more than 100 raisers in the two states, about African Swine Fever and the fight against it promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Simoes, who has been losing 10,000 cruzeiros daily since the beginning of the crisis, said that during the meeting with Governor Canet Junior, he told him that "The Ministry of Agriculture, despite the pressure of arguments, is considering only the health aspects, forgetting the economic, social, political and human aspects."

Damage

The raiser based his estimates of losses on the 30 percent portion of the swine herds of Parana and Santa Catarina (nearly 3 million head) which is ready for slaughter and which is consuming 4.59 cruzeiros per day per head in feed. According to the raisers, losses tend to increase because in time the animals eat larger amounts of feed and turn less of it into meat. He said that the normal ratio of 315 kilos of feed for 1 kilo of meat has now passed to 6.5 kilos of feed to 1 kilo of meat. Moreover, excessive fattening changes the type of meat produced--from the consumer price of 40 cruzeiros per kilo to that of the price of lard at 19 cruzeiros per kilo. The author of the memorandum, whose father was a hog raiser in Minas Gerais, said that in addition to the daily loss in feed, he is having many problems caused by overcrowding of installations which cannot hold the excess numbers.

For 60 days now he has not been able to sell any hogs. Shortly before the crisis, he sold 100 head per month.

He has 250,000 cruzeiros of overdue debts in the banks, two months of payments for operations costs. He complained that the indecision of the authorities have been the worse enemy of the raiser.

"We sought out the authorities and they ask that we see the regional center of the Secretariat of Agriculture, however, they do not know what to do.

The agencies and authorities do not issue instructions. We do not know whether we should continue to work in this branch of production or whether we should stop raising hogs," he complained. Simoes has 700 head of hogs with 80 brood sows and eight boars of the Duroc, Landrace, Hampshire, Large White and Essex breeds.

"We cannot just stand and wait for African Swine Fever to reach our herds. If it does exist, we cannot just wait because if we do the losses will be total," he declared, protesting the delay in opening the health corridors. "That delay demonstrates that the authorities are not prepared and do not know the size of the problem which assails us," he concluded.

Santo Antonio da Platina is located 20 kilometers from Jacarezinho, the first city in Parana to present a suspected a center of African Swine Fever infection. Several raisers in the area, on the brink of ruin, have used rafts to take their hogs across be slaughtered in the state of Sao Paulo, not satisfied with the establishment of closed health barriers. Since the outbreak in the first center of infection more than 30 days ago, no other has been confirmed in the region.

The majority of the 16 disinfection posts are already deactivated, there remaining only those of Melo Peixoto and Proto Espiridiao, where there are still inspections which prevent the traffic of hogs and there are health services for the trucks which carry animals. The Jacarazinho military school, whose members even camped out on the highways, is also demobilized. Only the Military Police continue to work at the two checkpoints.

In Florianopolis.

Deputy Pichette, in turn, also criticized "the great weakness of the minister of agriculture" and the "obvious lack of sensitivity of Governor Konder Reis, who at this time is more concerned with inaugurating little schools than with the great social pressures of 900,000 inhabitants of the western region."

Pichetti said that he is now authorized to speak in the name of the large and small raisers and that he has observed in these past 20 days that the prefects and raiser of 70 municipalities--all of them with an average of 90,000 head--"reject decisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and the state government which ban the traffic of animals to other states while traffic continues freely within the state from the regions already affected to those regions still free of the disease."

Pichetti said: "If the disease is so destructive why then does the government authorize the imports of animals, when there is a technology comparable to that of the major world producers here in the country and in Santa Catarina?" "In view of so many omissions by the authorities," said Pichetti, who suggested that the western part of Santa Catarina be immediately isolated from the rest of the state in which there are already six centers of infection--the closest

is in Campos Novos 190 kilometers from Chapeco--and that traffic be allowed to the northern part of Rio Grande do Sul where there are already four packing houses which are practically idle, "the government appears to wait until there is an outbreak before taking measures."

In a meeting held yesterday in Chapeco, 10 prefects from the Western region charged in an official note that the laboratory which is making the analysis is not signing the reports confirming the outbreak of the disease, "which added to the maneuvers by economic groups interested in discrediting the hog-raising industry now developed in Brazil, generates mistrust among the raisers and increases the concern that we may be the victims of hidden interests."

8908

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

SWINE FEVER OUTBREAKS DEVASTATING COUNTRY

MDB Criticism of Government Inaction

Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Aug 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Evelasio Vieira [Brazilian Democratic Movement, MDB, Santa Catarina State] has stated that the people are still waiting for official word regarding the true causes of the African swine fever which has been devastating the country. Senator Vieira noted that the air is filled with the impression that the government's action regarding African swine fever has been marked by omission instead of real action.

Senator Vieira noted that although it is already under control, African swine fever is still causing serious concern among the people, and he speculated on the real causes of the disease, (?not disregarding) possible action by multinational groups.

Senator Vieira also noted that the slaughter of hogs to prevent the spread of African swine fever has been seriously damaging the national economy, adding that the agriculture minister himself admitted that the suspension of pork exports will result in a \$40-million deficit in 1978.

He added that pork enterprises themselves are opposing the financing program for stockpiling pork because they believe that this would be a great risk considering that there are no prospects for bringing the level of consumption down to normal in the short term.

Senator Vieira concluded by asking the government for greater attention and support for hog producers. His remarks were supported by MDB Senators Dirceu Cardoso, Roberto Saturnino, and Gilvan Rocha and were rejected by Senators Jarbas Passarinho and Italivio Coelho, of the National Renewal Alliance [Arenal].

Taking the floor as government leader, Senator Jarbas Passarinho answered the criticism of the agriculture minister by the opposition. He contended that, despite the opposition's charges, Minister Alysson Paulinelli did not act hastily when he made a televised speech to the nation to report the discovery of outbreaks of African swine fever. According to Passarinho, Paulinelli rose to the occasion by adopting a courageous, firm attitude, because he then had at hand a report from a qualified laboratory confirming that the disease which was devastating the Rio de Janeiro hog flock was African swine fever.

After answering further criticism by MDB Senators Evelasio Vieira, Lazaro Barbosa, Gilvan Rocha, Roberto Saturnino, and Leite Chavez, Passarinho concluded by expressing his conviction that the agriculture minister took the appropriate measures to bring African swine fever under control.

New Outbreaks in Santa Catarina

Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 8 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Florianopolis--Three new outbreaks of African swine fever were confirmed in Santa Catarina State in the towns of Palmitos, Xanxere, and Sao Lourenco d'Oeste, bringing to 10 the total of outbreaks of the disease in this state, where more than 3,000 hogs have been killed thus far.

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

SWINE FEVER IN PARANA STATE--The Agriculture Ministry has confirmed the existence of three new outbreaks of swine fever in Parana State, bringing the total number of confirmed cases [in the state] to 18. The Parana Regional Office of the Agriculture Ministry reported that 2,500 hogs have been killed thus far both in places affected by the disease and in adjacent areas. [Text] [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 8 Aug 78 PY]

ROMANIAN, GDR SANITATION EXPERTS--Romanian and GDR sanitation experts who came to Brazil to study the threat of exporting African swine fever virus through soybean meal returned to their countries today with the certainty that the threat has been controlled by precautions taken by the Brazilian Government. [Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 4 Aug 78 PY]

BAN ON HOG CHOLERA VACCINE--The Agriculture Ministry has forbidden all Brazilian laboratories to manufacture hog cholera vaccine. Explaining the reasons, veterinarian (Luiz Pusinelli Neto) said that laboratories are manufacturing that vaccine with blood contaminated with African swine fever virus, since it is difficult to know if an animal whose blood is used is sick with hog cholera or African swine fever. Both diseases present the same symptoms, such as fever, spots on the head and finally death. [Text] [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Jul 78 PY]

SWINE FEVER SPREADS--African swine fever is spreading over the country. Today the number of confirmed focuses reached 89. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

BURMA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE--Special veterinary team no 4 from the veterinary and livestock breeding department toured Waw township in Pegu division from 18 to 29 July to carry out preventive measures and to cure draft cattle infected with foot-and-mouth disease in almost all 44 villages of 20 village tracts in the township. It has been learned that the veterinary team was successful in curing almost all the infected cattle. [Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0430 GMT 2 Aug 78 BK] Veterinary officials from Danubyu township toured Sagayyi region 4-10 July to cure 1,136 draft cattle of 74 villages, which were infected with foot-and-mouth disease. [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 20 Jul 78 p 4 BK]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

ANIMAL VACCINATIONS--To stimulate breeding and insure draft animals for farm work, the veterinary staff of the province of Vientiane and the [Meuang] Sai Thani district, in agreement with the local administration, in order to carry out animal vaccination since January has been visiting the seven communes of the [Meuang] Sai Thani district which were threatened by epidemics. During these rounds they vaccinated more than 2,700 buffalo, oxen and a great number of pigs. In addition, these officials informed the masses about various basic technical services pertaining to animal health, especially in the preparation of animal food, construction of stables and others. Since that time breeding in that area has increased appreciably. In Meuang Nam 650 animals, of which 275 buffalo, were also vaccinated. [Text] [Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 18 May 78 pp 7, 8]

CHAMPASSAK ANIMAL VACCINATION--Last April the veterinary staff of [Meuang] Pak Song district, Champassak Province, also vaccinated 500 oxen and 200 pigs in the Itou commune. [Text] [Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 12 May 78 p 4]

CSO: 5400

MEXICO

GOVERNMENT ADOPTS MEASURES ON SWINE FEVER

Mexico City OVACIONES in Spanish 26 Jul 78 p 10 PA

[Article by Adelfo Torres Pando]

[Excerpts] President Lopez-Portillo has ordered the enforcement of a program designed to prevent the entry into our country of the "deadly African swine fever" in view of the threat this dangerous disease, for which there is no known effective vaccine, represents for the 40 million hogs in the country.

The announcement was made yesterday by Dr Oscar Valdes Ornelas, director general of the Animal Health Department of the Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Secretariat. He added that, at the president's orders, 12 state secretariats as well as the attorney general of the republic, and the directorates of the airport and other services will participate in this national campaign.

He added that it is very easy to spread contamination by food, shoes, clothing, vehicles, and so forth, and, therefore, measures have been taken for adequate control at air and sea terminals to prevent the spread of the "African swine fever."

He pointed out that the characteristics of this disease are very similar to "hog cholera," which is very common in our country. Therefore, his office has advised the hog raisers of the country that, as soon as they notice cholera symptoms, to immediately go to any of the 69 laboratories established throughout the country to have the "differential diagnosis" test done on the animal.

In concluding, he said that the campaign has already been launched in the northern states in view of the tremendous "African swine fever" threat, and it will be extended to all the other states of the republic. It will be compulsory to present an official vaccination certificate in order to move hogs in the interior of the country.

CSO: 5400

NAMIBIA

BRIEFS

RABID MEERCAT, COW--Gochas--A tame meercat suspected of carrying rabies bit three children on the farm Toggevind owned by Mr Ben Dippenaar. Mr Dippenaar said that his children were all still receiving daily injections. A cow also started acting strangely and after stumbling around aimlessly in circles she died. The brain was sent to Onderstepoort for analysis and it was confirmed that the animal had contracted rabies. [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 7 Aug 78 p 2]

CSO: 5400

SPAIN

OUTBREAK OF INFECTIOUS ANEMIA IN HORSES REPORTED

Madrid BLANCO Y NEGRO in Spanish 19-25 Jul 78 pp 42-43

[Article by Juan Giron Roger]

[Text] Some concern has arisen among the trainers at the Zarzuela racecourse. Thirteen horses, trained by Maroto, Mendez, and Ceca, have been taken to the Algete Laboratory of Animal Health. The cause: an outbreak of infectious anemia.

This disease is caused by a virus; transmitted by horseflies and mosquitos. It leads to the death of the infected animal. Epidemics of equine infectious anemia occur between the months of July and October, and no treatment is fully effective for this disease. Therefore, the horses that show positive results in the blood analyses have to be sacrificed.

One Horse Dead and Two Cases Suspected

Of the 13 horses affected, one mare, "Tocaya," has already died from this disease. This horse had won the Beamonte prize and was now valued at over 2 million pesetas.

The rest of the horses that are being kept under observation in the Algete quarantine station are: "Romanche," "Chulapo," and "Rajh Dancer," trained by Mendez and from the Agullo stables; "Ruth-Follie" from the stables of Emilio Ceca; "Santa Anita," "Rachid," "Olaf-Bright," "Rubiche," "Rosenthal," and "La Zarza" trained by Luis Maroto; and "Terre de Joie" and "Nerul" whose trainer was Jesus Mendez.

At the Algete quarantine facility, we were told that "Mosto" and "Romescu" -- trained by Maroto -- may also be infected; results of the blood analyses are not yet in.

To give an idea of the importance of some of these horses, let us say that "Rajh Dancer" was a good 2-year-old who placed several times in the 1977

season; "Romanche" won two races in 1977 and in 1978; "Olaf-Bright" won the Fernan Nunez and the Reina Victoria Eugenia; "Rachid" won the second category Handicap at Viajes Marsans; and "Terre de Joie" was first in a normal race and placed in several others.

They Cannot Be Saved

"A horse affected by this anemia is totally unrecoverable," we were told by Pablo Panos, director of the Regional Laboratory of Animal Health, "although fortunately it is not a highly transmissible disease. The racecourse stables' hygiene conditions are not just minimal, but are adequate."

"It is a disease that can be controlled," he said, "and there is no reason for panic. All possible hygiene measures must be employed. The good intentions of the trainer are not enough; the horses must be placed in the hands of the veterinarian."

"Sacrifice and Destruction"

Dr. Rosuro, head of the Department of Virology of the Central Laboratory of Animal Health, commented: "In our research on this type of disease we are a little behind other countries. Vaccination cannot be used against this disease, for the actual virus used in the vaccine transmits the disease."

"Many of these horses were bought at public auctions. But at a minimum, a racehorse is worth about 400,000 pesetas. "Tocaya" was a magnificent mare; the others were promising. Also, these animals were believed to be all between the ages of 2 and 5," said Jose Manuel de la Hera, director of the Society for the Development of Horse Breeding.

Concerning the future of the diseased animals, the deputy director of the animal health department, Mr. Prieto, said: "We are going to repeat one more test, to avoid any carelessness. When we get a positive reading, we will comply with article 342 of the current regulations on animal disease. That means: sacrifice and destruction."

This Is Not New

Luis Maroto, trainer of a number of the diseased animals, was distressed. "Just imagine, this is our living. My conscience is totally at rest. I have always been concerned about the horses. Whenever a horse had a fever, I didn't train it. I have done everything I could. The only one who could think me responsible understands very little of this matter."

"This happened 2 years ago," explained trainer Jesus Mendez, "and of course it ended with the total elimination of the horses affected. Here we had four colts infected in 6 months. But we have no say or vote on how to handle this. In my case, the horses that were taken are very valuable. I think that 'Rajh Dancer' was the one that brought the disease to my stable."

The hygiene of the racecourse horses is very good, but the steps that are taken when there is an inspection are minimal. Seeing the number of horses infected, they should be completely isolated. To get it to disappear we would have to do continual analyses. But that is not done."

"The personnel," he continued, "can transmit the virus through the feet, but it is impossible to control this. What must be done is to eliminate the horses immediately that have shown positive test results. All contagion must be eliminated. From now on, not a single horse will enter my stable before it gets a negative reading in a blood analysis."

Concern and steps to be taken. As the racing season is coming to a close, things will be easier for the veterinarians. There will be less possibility of contagion. In any event, the horses affected will not be sacrificed until the diagnosis is confirmed, bringing the consequent order of sacrifice.

This is not the first time this sort of outbreak has happened. Nonetheless, it is not a frequent occurrence. The heat favors the spread of this virus. In the horse world, there is a rumor going around that these things would not happen if more care were taken beforehand, if disposable syringes were used, and if every horse showing suspicious symptoms were quickly isolated.

7679

CSO: 5400

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY GUIDES DISEASE PREVENTION AMONG LIVESTOCK

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 14 Jun 78 pp 1, 7

[Article: "Ministry of Agriculture Provides Guidance on Preventing and Eliminating Livestock Disease"]

[Text] The office of the Ministry of Agriculture has just issued a notice which states that livestock disease in a number of southern provinces has been noted and the ministry has set a number of requirements so that the provinces can rapidly overcome this situation.

According to the notice, in the districts of Tan Bien and Chan Thanh in Tay Ninh Province, the city of Long An, the city of My Tho, and the district of Thanh Tri in Han Giang Province, epidemics of bovine hemorrhhea, erysipelos and livestock cholera have recently appeared.

In view of this, the Ministry of Agriculture requests that provincial People's Committees, Commercial Services, and Agricultural Services pay attention to resolving the following problems:

During the transitional period between the dry season and the rainy season disease epidemics often occur in the south. Therefore, the provinces must organize continuous monitoring of the livestock situation by helping the places with diseased livestock to treat them or destroy them immediately and not allow the disease to spread. When an outbreak is discovered the local administration must promptly make an official announcement and concentrate forces on rapidly isolating and extinguishing the outbreak.

In the areas with no livestock disease the transporting of livestock may proceed as usual. To transport livestock out of a province an epidemic control document issued by the local veterinary medicine organ is required. Livestock epidemic control must be carried out more adequately and meticulously.

The local veterinary medicine organs must organize tight control in order to protect the livestock in their localities, especially with regard to breeding stock. But at the same time they should avoid hastily applying

excessive measures that are not yet necessary which impede production, circulation, and distribution and adversely affect the lives of the people.

Localities which have not inoculated their livestock since the beginning of the year must continue to urgently organize inoculations. Especially, with regard to the concentrated state and private animal husbandry bases, inoculations must receive specific guidance and pen sanitation must be assured.

5616

CSO: 5400

LIVESTOCK DIE, RABIES VACCINE IN SHORT SUPPLY

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 29 Jul 78 p 7

[Excerpt] **CATTLE and sheep at farms east of Lusaka are dying of rabies and the situation is worsened by an acute shortage of anti-rabies vaccine for the animals.**

Two cattle and two sheep at Kyindu farm, about 34 km from Lusaka, and another two cattle at a farm owned by Mrs Kay carruthers have died during the past two weeks.

Veterinary officers have confirmed the death of the cattle and sheep as having been caused by rabies, but the fourth cow which died at Mrs Carruthers' farm on Tuesday night had its head severed and sent for testing. Meat of the dead animals has been fed to domesticated lions at Kyindu farm.

Manager at Kyindu, Mr Dave Williams said of the 1,000 cattle population at the farm that only 150 and the 300 sheep had been vaccinated against rabies by veterinary officers.

This means that if nothing is done to rectify the situation 850 cattle at Kyindu farm and 150 at Mrs Carruthers' may be wiped out by the killer disease.

But this may be averted by owners of the two farms who have jointly ordered 1,000 doses of the rabies vaccine to control the disease among their livestock.

The situation was confirmed by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture yesterday.

A spokesman for the ministry said the Veterinary Department had run out of the vaccine for the control of rabies in cattle and sheep, and had only 1,500 doses of

rabies vaccine for dogs and cats.

He said cases involving rabies in cattle and sheep had also been reported in different parts of the country, but did not say how many animals had died from the disease.

Unforeseen

"Due to unforeseen circumstances our tender for vaccines, drugs and others were submitted late and this, together with subsequent delays in obtaining import licences and foreign exchange allocation, has led to problems in obtaining our requirements of rabies vaccines," the spokesman said.

He said shortage of funds had prevented the Veterinary Department from meeting outstanding bills from local suppliers who were, "quite naturally", reluctant to offer further credit facilities following pressure from their overseas sources of supply.

He said: "They (suppliers) have tried to assist us to the best of their ability to date."

The spokesman said since January 16 outbreaks of rabies had been gazetted in the country at the request of various provincial and district veterinary officers.

A number of people were reported to have died of rabies at Kalulushi and in Lusaka, and the department had been informed of several other incidents of people having been bitten by rabid or suspected rabid dogs in

various parts of the country.

He said outbreaks had been reported in the North-east, Eastern, Central, Copperbelt, Southern, Western, North-Western and Lusaka provinces since the beginning of the year.

He said: "Whenever an outbreak of rabies has been confirmed, a tie-up order is imposed within the prescribed area under the control of dogs Act Cap 381.

"This permits the prohibitions of movement, quarantine or isolation of dogs within the gazetted area to prevent the spread of the disease and allow the veterinary officer responsible to initiate a destruction campaign of all stray or unowned dogs."

Stray

It is understood that the Lusaka Province veterinary office is programmed to shoot between 7,000 and 8,000 stray dogs in the province, but because of lack of transport and funds, the campaign may not be carried out on full scale as planned.

The spokesman said the department was further handicapped by lack of a broadcasting vehicle, because the only one they had broke down and was in the workshop being repaired.

This has made it difficult for the department to alert the public in affected areas of its intention to shoot stray dogs.

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

SHORTAGE OF FUNDS MAY HAMPER LOCUST FIGHT

London WEST AFRICA in English 31 Jul 78 p 1514

[Text]

Col. Sam M. Akwagyiram, Commissioner for Agriculture, warned West African states to be on the alert for a possible locust invasion because of heavy rainfalls and strong winds blowing from the Horn of Africa towards West and Central Africa. The Commissioner, who is also chairman of the International African Migratory Locust Organisation (OICMA), said the organisation needed to raise about \$3m. to be able to prevent locust migration to West and Central Africa. So far, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have offered \$1.5m. worth of technical and equipment aid to accelerate research, while the Arab Bank has offered \$50,000 for the same purpose. However, Col. Akwagyiram, who was returning from an administrative meeting of the OICMA in Kinshasa, said that with the organisation's present financial position, it would not be able to fight a locust invasion for more than one month. He blamed the poor financial position on member states of OICMA who were heavily indebted to the organisation for the past two years, and said that Zaire and the Peoples' Republic of Congo had not fulfilled their obligations.

CSO: 5400

BELIZE

SMUT THREATENING SUGARCANE AGRICULTURE

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 6 Aug 78 pp 1, 9 FL

[Text] Like the Black Death plague which ravished Europe in the 14th century, a carbon black disease called "smut" is threatening the sugarcane fields of the north.

"This disease is unquestionably more dangerous than froghopper," Mr Libby Ayuso, secretary of the Sugar Board told the reporter. "If unattended it could wipe us out in as little as three years".

The Belize sugar industry's research center announced this week it had positively identified the disease. Smut is a fungus disease that attacks ratoon or second year cane plants at the base of the stem. Almost no cane develops, and the plant takes on a reedy appearance, something like guinea grass.

The paralysed plant instead of the healthy cane tassels shoots a black carbonized whip which bears the fungus spores. Control at this stage is very difficult because the spores are dispersed to other canefields by the wind. The only known answer to smut is to kill it by burning affected cane fields.

Smut was detected last week in a four-acre canefield owned by Mr Mardonio Bobadilla of San Antonio, Rio Hondo (Albion Island) in the Orange Walk District. The field has been immediately quarantined and BSI research personnel are carefully wrapping infected ratoons in plastic bags and burning them. If smut spreads, entire canefields will have to be burned to the ground.

Mr Libby Ayuso has told the reporter that plans are underway to encourage farmers to replace their HJ variety of cane which is an easy prey to smut to hardier varieties which can resist the disease. Indications are that the farmers of the north are responding. They have been attending lectures on the subject sponsored by the Belize sugar industries. An appeal has been made to all cane farmers to report any suspicious development in their canefields.

Smut originated in Africa and was reported in Guyana four years ago. In 1976 both Jamaica and El Salvador reported the presence of smut in their canefields, causing serious damage.

"Belize has been on the lookout for smut since last year," Mr Ayuso told the reporter, "and hopes to nip the disease in the bud before it has a chance to spread."

CSO: 5400

LAOS

BRIEFS

CHAMPASSAK INSECTICIDES--Recently the provincial agricultural services of [Houa] Phanh sent 280 kilograms of ordinary rice seeds, 800 kilograms of peanuts and 48 bottles of liquid insecticides and 4,350 kilograms of powdered insecticides to the farmers of the [Meuang] Sam Neua, [Meuang] Viang Say, [Meuang] Sam Tai, [Meuang] Siang Kho, and [Meuang] Viang Thong districts to enable them to proceed sufficiently early with their seasonal rice cultivation for this year and their fight against insect pests. [Text] [Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 5 May 78 p 4]

CSO: 5400

MAURITIUS

YELLOW SPOT THREAT TO SUGAR CROP

S-17 Variety Attacked by Yellow Spot Disease

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 12 Jul 78 p 5

[Text] Mr. Robert Antoine, director of the MSIRI [Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute], explained the reasons behind the new attack on variety S-17 by the yellow spot disease, caused by a pathogenic mushroom.

He first of all pointed out that he had gone to Queensland, in Australia, in 1965, where the disease was ravaging the area because of the humid climatic conditions. In 1964 however he discovered the disease on B-33/37 at Beau-Climat. Another variety, M-93/48, proved to be resistant; it was planted on a larger scale while the B-33/37 variety was replaced.

Today the disease is attacking S-17, a rich variety which was planted on a very large scale. But only in humid regions does the MSIRI director have reason to fear that more aggressive mutations developed among the mushroom. There is also the fact that late rainfall helps the mushroom survive. This is what happened over the last 3 years. If the rain comes early, the plant has time to recover its strength until the winter comes and, with it, the harvest. This unfortunately is not true of S-17 which blooms abundantly and which no longer sprouts in the winter. This arrest of vegetation explains the lack of resistance and the drop in the sugar percentage. In high-elevation regions and in those that are exposed to the rain, the planter will this year register a loss of 26 percent (Rs 1,500) per acre of sugar cane attacked.

The MSIRI recommends several methods in the fight against this disease; the first one is to replace S-17 with better varieties. But the replacement cycle on Mauritius is 9 years and the elimination of S-17--which was planted abundantly because of its rich yield--cannot be made for many, many years.

Here is an institute announcement on this subject:

"Yellow Spot" is not a new sugar cane disease in this country. There were severe attacks upon the B-3337 variety, for several years after its introduction on Mauritius in 1964; at that time, this variety occupied a large

surface in very humid regions. The disease diminished in importance after the removal of the B-3337 variety from the crops and its replacement with M-93/48, a resistant variety.

"Research undertaken by the MSIRI from 1968 until 1973 confirmed the importance of selecting resistant varieties for crops in very humid regions where the disease can be severe. These measures were adopted.

"A new epidemic struck the S-17 variety after 1976. This recrudescence of Yellow Spot was triggered primarily by rainy conditions at the end of the vegetation cycle over the past 3 years. The attacks are particularly severe this year and the delayed rainfall has been particularly abundant. Besides, the resistance of the S-17 variety has declined; there are indications that this is the result of a change in the pathogenic mushroom, a phenomenon rather widespread among these microorganisms.

"Research on the disease was started up again early in 1977. The purpose is precisely to determine the losses due to Yellow Spot in the S-17 variety and to find out whether other control means, other than the choice of resistant varieties, can be effective.

"These studies are not yet complete. But we can already say that the effects of Yellow Spot on S-17 in very humid regions are severe; losses may amount to as much as 26 percent due to a drop in the yield and low purity. The losses for 1977 were estimated at between 3,000 and 5,000 tons of sugar. They will be bigger in 1978, perhaps double. It is thus recommended that we replace S-17 in the very humid regions on the island.

"The first control measure recommended by the MSIRI remains the selection of resistant varieties. Some of the ones recently released are resistant. There are also others which will be released soon. However, since the resistance of certain varieties can change after several years of crop-raising and since losses can then be incurred, until they are replaced, as happened in the case of S-17, the MSIRI is looking for additional control measures. The studies showed that atomizing [spraying] with the fungicide Benlate permits excellent control. It remains for us to experiment with treatment on an industrial scale; only spraying from the air would be practical for a crop such as sugar cane. The economic aspect of this issue is being studied before we contemplate spraying on a large scale."

Yellow Spot Attacks Sugar Cane Variety

Port Louis LE PEUPLE in French 6 Jul 78 pp 1, 4

[Text] After the white crop louse, the sugar cane disease which to a certain extent damaged our crop, we have now coming at us "The Yellow Spot," another disease considered in sugar circles to be a real yellow peril which,

according to initial estimates, may cause a loss of 10,000 tons of sugar, in other words, an amount of Rs 20 million, thus reducing the increase of 2 percent--which the ACP/African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries got from the EEC--to 1 percent with regard to the Mauritian case.

"Yellow Spot," usually called yellow mushroom, attacks cane leaves, thus disturbing the photosynthesis of these leaves which manufacture the carbohydrates that produce sugar. Here is an unfortunate coincidence, on top of all that; this yellow mushroom more particularly attacks the S-17 variety (which is widespread in Mauritius) especially in high-elevation regions with a superhumid climate. In scientific circles it is estimated that, if this disease exceeds 20 percent of the surface of the leaves, our harvest for this year will be seriously damaged.

The yellow mushroom however is not a new phenomenon. In its 1976 annual report, the MSIRI (Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute) mentioned the recrudescence of this disease during the months of May and June of this year. "The S-17 variety, so far considered a very strong variety, has been hit more particularly in the highly humid regions. The disease reached its high point in June and the duration of the infection cycle continues surprisingly until August," it was noted in the annual MSIRI report. The yellow mushroom more particularly attacks the sprouts of S-17 which are already in bloom to the extent of 65 percent and those which are not blooming to the extent of 30 percent.

Thus, the S-17 variety--considered to be a variety with a high sugar content--has had a rather varying history ever since it was released for large-scale cultivation in 1970. Its planted surface grew from 4 percent in 1970 to 34 percent in 1976 and during the sugar boom it grew from 16 to 28 percent. We must also say that S-17 (which is a variety with a high sugar content) makes it possible to start the cutting rather early. Are we now to be disappointed in this variety which contributed so much to our sugar boom? Some people in sugar industry circles believe that we should not have concentrated at that rate on S-17 which now turns out to be unable to resist the yellow mushroom.

It seems that there is a double remedy against the yellow mushroom. First of all, the application of fungicidal substances to destroy the parasite mushroom. This measure has not yet been studied in detail because it is necessary to use a helicopter for the purpose of spreading the substance and, in the groups concerned, it is believed that this would be very expensive. Next comes the replacement of the S-17 variety with other, stronger varieties. That is tantamount to replacing thousands of acres of S-17 with resistant varieties. Well-informed sources reveal that it is this second measure which will be adopted because we have other, more resistant cane varieties available.

For the moment, a certain panic has taken hold of sugar circles because this mushroom is considered to be highly contagious. It can be spread by the wind and it can thus cross from one end of the country to the other. For the time being, in certain regions, the sugar cane fields present the very sad spectacle of desolation with their yellow leaves.

5058
CSO: 5400

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

SZECHWAN DISEASE, INSECTS TROUBLE--The Szechwan Provincial Revolutionary Committee issued an urgent circular on 25 July calling on the province to combat plant diseases and insect pests in order to reap a bumper autumn harvest. The circular said it is necessary to mobilize the masses to make great efforts in this work during the next 2 weeks, which is the key growth period of the autumn crops. All places must investigate the situation of local diseases and pests and take appropriate action. Departments concerned should provide full support. Timely loans should be provided to communes and brigades in difficulty to enable them to buy agricultural chemicals and equipment. [Chengtu Szechwan Provincial Service in Szechwan Dialect 1300 GMT 29 Jul 78 HK]

CSO: 5400

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

NEW WHEAT DISEASE--Pretoria--The division of plant pathology at the University of Pretoria has identified a new wheat disease that is reported to pose a serious danger to the wheat industry in South Africa. This is the first time that the disease--labelled crater disease--has been identified according to a member of the division, Professor J.M. Kotze, who said the disease had caused a loss of about 35 percent in wheat produced on the Springbok Flats.--IANA. [Text] [Salisbury THE RHODESIA HERALD in English 11 Aug 78 p 2]

CSO: 4420

BROWN PLANTHOPPERS INFEST SOUTHERN PROVINCES

Ho Chi Minh City TIN SANG in Vietnamese 8 Jun 78 pp 2, 7

[Interview with Dang Thai Thuan, assistant director of the Vegetation Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture: "The Southern Provinces and Municipalities Must Actively Guard Against and Eliminate Brown Planthoppers, Should Concentrate on Completely Eliminating Them, Especially in the Key Areas"]

[Editor's Note: At present, in a number of southern provinces, brown planthoppers are causing damage and are spreading in rice paddies which are behind in harvesting. Therefore, guarding against and eliminating brown planthoppers is now an urgent task in the southern provinces. In order to assist in that task, Comrade Dang Thai Thuan, assistant director of the Vegetation Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, agreed to a TIN SANG interview regarding brown planthoppers and the methods of preventing and eliminating them. The text of the interview follows:

Question: The brown planthopper infestation in the southern provinces in 1977 was extensive and caused a certain amount of loss. At present the people in all areas are enthusiastically putting out the summer-fall crop. Can you tell the readers how the brown planthopper situation is developing?

Answer: This year's summer-fall crop cannot escape the influence of the previous production seasons. Due to the drought conditions, the 1977 summer-fall season had to be prolonged, which resulted in a rather large part of the 1977-1978 winter-spring rice crop being late. It had to be shifted over to the spring-summer rice crop. Therefore, in comparison to last year, the 1978 rice area is much greater. At present, the current rice crop, which is heading or about to head, is being seriously damaged by brown planthoppers in the provinces of Dong Nai, Song Be, Tay Ninh, Ben Tre, Ho Chi Minh City, and Cuu Long. At the same time, as we

know the rain began early this year, so the summer-fall rice crop was begun earlier than usual. The spring-summer crop was the connecting link which allowed insects and disease, especially brown planthoppers, to continue their damage during the summer-fall rice crop season.

During the nights of 15, 16 and 17 May large numbers of brown planthoppers flew into light traps.

At Vegetation Protection Station No 1 at Long Dinh in Tien Giang Province, in a period of only 3 hours on the night of 15 May more than 180,000 brown planthoppers flew into traps. At the same time in the fields we discovered that the brown planthoppers were laying eggs not only on the spring-summer rice but also on the recently transplanted summer-fall rice. All this shows that this year the brown planthoppers appeared earlier and will perhaps be present in larger numbers and more extensively than in previous years. During the last 10 days of May there was an infestation of planthopper larvae, just as had been predicted. That was the first notable infestation this year. Thereafter, every month a generation of planthopper will appear throughout the summer-fall and 10th month seasons.

Question: Faced with the situation of brown planthoppers doing such serious damage, what specific steps has the agricultural sector taken to do a good job of protecting the rice crops in 1978, of most immediate concern the current summer-fall crop?

Answer: Although the area damaged by brown planthoppers is still limited, it is necessary to concentrate on eliminating them from the beginning, to prevent damage from spreading at a later stage.

At present, having gained experience in last year's campaign against plant-hoppers, the southern provinces and municipalities have made rather meticulous preparations with regard to organization and materials under the present difficult conditions, in order to do a good job of protecting the summer-fall and 10th month rice crops. The Vegetation Protection Department has sent cadres to the key planthopper-infested areas.

Last year, Ben Tre was the location in which the brown planthoppers epidemic began and spread to the other provinces. This year Ben Tre is also the center of the brown planthopper infestation, so if we isolate and eradicate the brown planthoppers in that area we will be able to limit their spread during the coming period.

In a directive on the task of promoting the prevention and elimination of brown planthoppers sent to the agricultural sectors of the southern provinces and municipalities at the end of May, the Ministry of Agriculture affirmed that prevention is the principal measure--absolute prevention, prevention from the very beginning, when the infested area is still small. The areas not yet infested by planthoppers must actively prevent them, and places which are infested must concentrate on completely wiping them out,

continue to absolutely eliminate them, and not allow them to spread to other places. The provinces and municipalities must appropriately apply the seven measures for preventing and eliminating planthoppers recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1977 to the specific local conditions. A point that must receive attention is that it is necessary not to stress only chemical measures but also to pay attention to measures that can be carried out principally by means of existing local capabilities. The preventive measures, such as field sanitation, planting at the right time, the use of light traps, and especially the growing of planthopper-resistant rice, must be promoted in order to restrict the conditions necessary for the spread of planthoppers.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture has reminded the localities that they should quickly complete planting and reduce the planted area in order to adhere to the summer-fall rice season schedule. In addition, it is continuing to build, manage, and use the vegetation protection network, an important and urgent requirement at the present time, which the southern provinces and municipalities have fulfilled and are fulfilling. That network has the mission of discovering the pockets of infestation at an early stage in order to organize the prevention and elimination of insects and disease in the fields, especially when pestilence occurs. A strong vegetation protection network will save a very large quantity of insecticide and pumps.

Question: Please tell us about the organization and implementation of this year's anti-planthopper campaign.

Answer: The experience of last year shows that the most decisive factor of the anti-planthopper task is the guidance and organization of prevention and elimination forces, followed in importance by materials. Only with good organization can we truly utilize the facilities and materials rationally, economically and effectively. This year we definitely must not follow the old ways--allowing pockets of infestation to appear and then mobilizing forces and materials to fight them. After fighting them for a while and seeing that the density of the planthoppers had been reduced, we withdrew, and when the planthopper infestation developed again we once again sent forces to continue the fight. Thus we were extremely passive and the campaign was prolonged and could not be completed.

Furthermore, we have not been able to create a good model for the anti-planthopper task. This year we have sent people to closely observe the key areas and create models, on the basis of which to expand the scope of prevention and elimination effectively and economically. With regard to the central level, an anti-planthopper campaign guidance committee has been established. In the localities there are also corresponding anti-planthopper campaign guidance committees at the provincial, district, village, and hamlet levels. In addition to the cadres sent to the principal planthopper-infestation areas, in June the Vegetation Protection Department will continue to hold specialized training classes to serve the task of fighting planthoppers in the provinces of eastern Nam Bo and the Mekong Delta area.

Question: With regard to the organization of this year's brown planthopper prevention and elimination campaign, can you tell us whether there are any changes in the distribution of agricultural materials to the localities?

Answer: First of all, I believe that it is necessary to deal with the distribution of agricultural materials to prevent and eliminate planthoppers that were distributed last year, especially the various types of insecticides intended specifically to eliminate brown planthoppers, such as Mipcin, Bassa, and Wofatox (Methyl Parathion). Although the quantities of those valuable insecticides are limited, we distributed them equally among the various places, including those in which planthoppers had not yet appeared. That led to a shortage of insecticides in key areas in which the brown planthoppers were increasing rapidly. Therefore, we were not only unable to eradicate the pockets of infestation, which damaged the crops in the key areas, but the brown planthoppers spread to infest other places.

Having learned from those experiences, this year the various types of brown planthopper insecticides have been distributed in accordance with the local situation, and especially to key areas. Those are where planthopper infestations have broken out and the highly productive, intensively cultivated rice areas in the Mekong Delta. If we are able to isolate and control planthoppers in such areas, we will effectively protect the crops in the other areas.

Although agricultural materials have been sent to the localities, their use must be based on the recommendations of the local cadres responsible for vegetation protection at the various levels. At present, Long An and Tien Giang are models in the new methods of distribution and utilization. The peasants must be reminded that the insecticide has been distributed only for use during the larvae phase (i.e., while the brown planthoppers are still young and have not developed wings). That phase lasts only 5 to 7 days for each generation of planthoppers. Beyond that period the use of insecticide is very wasteful and ineffective.

In addition to insecticides, gasoil and kerosene are also very effective in the prevention and elimination of planthoppers, and they have the advantage of being usable in all developmental phases of the planthoppers, even on mature, winged ones.

At present, the collective livelihood movement in the southern provinces and municipalities is developing strongly. That is a great advantage with regard to the task of preventing and eliminating insects and disease, especially brown planthoppers. By taking the initiative with regard to guidance, gaining experience from last year's campaign to eliminate planthoppers, and always keeping abreast of the developments regarding planthoppers in order to be prepared to eradicate pockets of infestation immediately, while they are still restricted to a small area, we are confident of victoriously protecting the summer-fall and 10th month rice crops as economically and effectively as possible.

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CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

LEAFHOPPERS THREATEN RICE CROP IN MEKONG DELTA

Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Jul 78 BK

[Text] According to the Ministry of Agriculture, over the past 10 days various localities have been able to rapidly expand the cultivated 10th-month rice area owing to a sufficient supply of water provided by even rain.

Specifically, Minh Hai has sown and transplanted more than 85,000 hectares and Hau Giang more than 30,000 hectares. As of 25 July, the Mekong Delta provinces had grown 629,155 hectares of 10th-month rice, fulfilling nearly 50 percent of their area plans. Dong Thap was credited with the fastest rice-growing rate. An Giang claimed second honor with 78 percent of its area plan fulfilled. Other provinces, however, have fulfilled only 11 to 36 percent of their plans, well behind their cultivation schedules.

Meanwhile, leafhoppers, after attacking the summer-fall rice crop, are developing vigorously in all of the Mekong Delta provinces, seriously threatening the 10th-month rice crop.

In Ben Tre, large areas of newly transplanted 10th-month rice have been destroyed by leafhoppers. In Long An, the insects are spreading fairly quickly on 11,428 hectares. In Tien Giang, Dong Thap, Hau Giang, An Giang, and Ho Chi Minh City, the damage caused by leafhoppers over the past 10 days has diminished, but new gray leafhoppers have appeared in large areas. In Hau Giang, 46,000 hectares of summer-fall and 10th-month rice have been affected, including 26,000 hectares which have been seriously damaged. In An Giang, a new wave of gray leafhoppers has appeared on some 33,000 hectares. Meanwhile, in Tien Giang, 20,000 hectares of rice have fallen victim to gray leafhoppers.

It is forecast that these gray leafhoppers will cause even more serious losses in the next few days. Peasants in various localities are urgently devising plans to promptly stamp out the new outbreak of gray leafhoppers, and to prevent the insects from spreading to other localities.

Some localities in the Mekong River delta have begun to harvest their summer-fall rice. Fairly high yields have been reported in areas where the summer-fall rice was sown and transplanted early in April. Generally speaking, the summer-fall rice crop has developed quite satisfactorily in all localities and is expected to be completely harvested by early August.

To insure high yields for the summer-fall crop, the people in the affected areas are actively taking measures to exterminate leafhoppers to protect rice, particularly the rice which will have to be harvested soon.

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

BROWN FLIES AFFECT RICE--Over the past few days, brown flies have again appeared on two-thirds of the summer-fall rice area in the suburban districts of Ho Chi Minh City, mainly in Cu Chi and Binh Chanh districts. There are some 300-5,000 [numbers as heard] flies per square meter. Thousands of peasants and 70 percent of the cadres, workers and students in Cu Chi district have been mobilized to kill the flies. In Binh Chanh district, thousands of hectares of rice and seedlings have been affected by brown flies and leafrollers. In Thu Duc district, people are using the discharge water from the mytox chemical insecticide factory to kill the flies. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 Aug 78 BK]

HARMFUL INSECTS SPREADING--The Vegetation Department has sent an urgent message to various provincial agricultural offices urging them to launch an insect eradication drive from 25 July to 5 August. Ricefields must be inspected so that insect larvae may be detected and destroyed. The message says that large areas have a high density of insect larvae--producing around 8,000 to 10,000 insects per square meter. With such a high density of insect larvae, there will certainly be an insect plague by the end of July. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 27 Jul 78 BK]

CUU LONG INSECT CONTROL--To date, 13,830 hectares of summer-fall rice area in Cuu Long Province are affected by brown flies. The local peasants have used lime and woodash on affected ricefields to kill the flies and save the crop. In addition, the peasants have also adopted other measures to eliminate harmful insects and prevent them from moving into other cultivated areas. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 25 Jul 78 BK]

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